



Chris Owens
Director

February 1st is **Go Red for Women** day. Heart health is not just for men! This annual observance is a day when everyone is asked to **wear red** to raise awareness of heart health for women.

Visit the American Heart Association [online](#) to see your risk, find ways to be healthier and follow the stories of other women. **Heart disease is the number one cause of death for women.**

Please join us tomorrow in wearing red to raise awareness.



Today is the last day of January and the last day of:

- Stalking Awareness Month
- [Modern Slavery/ Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#)

It is not the last day to raise awareness or to be involved in supporting victims ... who are the reason **VAWA** (Violence Against Women Act) matters.

Safe Visitation and Exchange of Children @ LMVEC

Contributed by: Kathryn Tillet, Community Outreach Specialist

In January, Louisville Metro Visitation and Exchange Center (LMVEC) staff were privileged to attend a three-day workshop on supervised visitation and exchange services offered through the federal Office on Violence Against Women's Safe Havens grant.

Safe Havens differs from other supervised visitation and exchange programs in its focus on protecting parents who are victims of intimate partner violence from experiencing further threats, abuse, and manipulation, as well as on protecting children from the trauma of witnessing or experiencing domestic violence.

As the recent horrific triple murder in Hazard County reminds us, batterers frequently use visitation and exchange of children as an opportunity to continue threatening or causing harm to victims. Because batterers very often escalate their violence towards victims during and after separation, the protection offered by Safe Havens programs like LMVEC can be life changing.

Through the workshop LMVEC staff worked with colleagues from other Safe Havens funded centers to discuss the best strategies for supporting families as they navigate this stressful period. Among these, important approaches included striving to keep policies flexible so that they can meet each family's particular needs; treating each man, woman, and child with compassion and dignity; and continually investing time to build authentic relationships with each individual.

Attendees were also given practice honing important skills, such as effective ways to intervene when batterers try to use the center to continue using abusive or controlling tactics, and ways to support children struggling during transitions between parents.

For VEC information Contact Kathryn:

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Kentucky Refugee Ministries: Refugee Women & Employment

Did you know that we have a valuable employee source here in Louisville with a compassionate edge? Kentucky Refugee Ministries (KRM) serves many clients who face typical challenges to acclimation in the United States.

However, there exists a small group of clients whose challenges are greater than most. KRM is currently seeking part time and full time permanent employment for female clients with minimal English skills and minimal education and work experience. Most of these clients are single mothers who need regular employment in order to provide for their families, allow their oldest children to complete high school, and achieve self-sufficiency. Employers will find these women to be hard working and resilient and can feel good knowing that they are helping lift this person from incredibly difficult circumstances.

Immaculee Nzamukosha is one such woman. This single Congolese mother of five arrived in Louisville last summer. In the fall she landed a job at a packaging

company but was laid off shortly thereafter. Since then, Immaculee has found it difficult to get another job given the many barriers she faces. Yet, she remains hopeful and has continued to develop her English and job skills.

KRM currently offers intensive, work related English classes to clients like Immaculee twice weekly. KRM is also able to offer employer support in the form of paperwork assistance, some interpretation, short term job training, and mentoring services.

You can do your part to realize Mayor Fischer's vision of a Compassionate City. If you know of an employment opportunity for these remarkable clients, please contact Staci Kottkamp or Kelly Hesler at 502.479.9180 (ext. 24 or 72); via email at kottkamp@kyrm.org or khesler@kyrm.org.



The **Louisville Metro Office for Women** (OFW) uses policy and advocacy to improve the status of women in the Louisville Metro area. OFW is a Policy, Advocacy & Community Outreach office within the Louisville Metro Department of Community Services and Revitalization. OFW Committee involvement examines women's needs, system responses and assists in development of recommendations. The Office serves as an information and resource hub, maximizing resources through community education & partnerships, communication, collaboration, interns/volunteers and technology.

News For & About
Women

US News posted in their "Debate Club" the question: [Should the Violence Against Women Act be re-authorized?](#)

Unlike other legislation, VAWA must be reauthorized to remain in effect. For the first time since it passed in 1974, VAWA has remained in limbo due to failed reauthorization attempts in Congress.

A Washington Post [article](#) a few days ago was headlined: *The Violence Against Women Act is on life support.* So far—no outrage.

Women are the overwhelming majority of people protected under VAWA because they are an overwhelming majority of victims in crimes like intimate partner violence. But despite the name, men and children are also protected under VAWA & receive services funded through VAWA.

[OFW Louisville on Facebook](#)

[Women's Organizations](#)

[OFW Reports & Publications](#)

Community Calendar & News

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Mayor Hosts Pecha Kucha – A Night of Big Ideas
[Free event is Tuesday, Feb. 5 at Metro Hall](#)
Doors open at 7 pm. Presentations at 8 pm.

Looking for Lilith Theatre Company presents World Premiere Play as part of Women's History Month: Strong-willed photographer Alice Austen takes on the Victorian World in ***Alice in Black and White***

Center for Women & Families
26th Anniversary
Celebration of Service & Survival
February 13, 2013
Louisville Marriott Downtown
5:30pm Reception & Silent Auction
6:30pm Dinner & Program

The 2013 Women of Distinction:
Madeline Abramson: *Community Volunteer*
Dr. Renee Campbell: *President/CEO, Wesley House Services*
Susan Ely: *Jefferson County Attorney's Office, Domestic Violence Unit*
Tori Murden McClure: *President, Spalding University*
Mary Gwen Wheeler: *Executive Director, 55,000 Degrees*
Janene Shakir, *Joan E. Thomas Lifetime Achievement Award*

Shop & Share—February 2, 2013:
Since 2008 this annual event has collected goods & funds for Kentucky's 15 domestic violence shelters.

[Shop & Share](#) is a joint initiative of the First Lady's Office, Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA), Kroger, Food City, Kentucky Commission

on Women, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, Girls Scouts of Wilderness Road Council, and Kentucky Drug Court. Click [Here](#) to volunteer.



January is Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month
Find out more:

- [Rights4Girls](#)
- [National Association of Attorney Generals](#)
- [Homeland Security](#)
- Kentucky [Rescue & Restore](#)

January is Stalking Awareness Month
Find out more:

- [Kentucky Statutes related to Stalking](#)
- KY Assoc. of Sexual Assault Programs: [Learn what you can do.](#)
- What you can do - [Make Stalking Awareness Month Count.](#)

Did you ever wonder what the "path to citizenship" looks like for immigrants and refugees?

You can visit the blog "[Immigration Road](#)" to see general information, updates and the "[map](#)" to a green card. The map has not been updated since 2009, but the map and message is still relevant.

About Immigration Road:
"[ImmigrationRoad.com](#) is a resource center for immigrants and visitors residing in the United States. By offering accurate, practical and up-to-date information, we hope to help people solve immigration problems and adapt to the new environment more easily."

Disclaimer:

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